

**John Tayloe to George Washington, February 22, 1775,  
19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN TAYLOE.<sup>1</sup>**

DEAR SIR

Your favor of Nov: 20<sup>inst.</sup> reached me only the 8 instant when I found it on my way to Fredriksburg. I am heartily glad you concluded the troublesome business of settling Col. Mercers estate so well without any of my assistance which was greatly concerned that my bad health would not afford you from which I recovered by disuse of Coffee except a bad cold of which have but lately recovered though I am not conscious that I would have been of any use to you in this State & I am glad you concluded it so much to satisfaction as the distress of the times (should think) would sufficiently excuse any deficiency from the valuation in 1767 & doubt not you took such such securities as at this time are judged very good & I hope may prove so. Doubtless every precaution will be necessary in the buying of bills & I think they ought to be drawn payable to the persons to whom the money is due, for under such fickle times I shall be as averse to endorsing bills as you can be but think we may readily adopt the plan above. I am sorry to tell you that yesterday our country [lost] a good Councillor & able judge myself a good friend in the death of Philip Ludwell Lee Esq<sup>2</sup>—best compliments to your lady concludes Dr Sir

Your obliged friend & obedient humble servant JOHN TAYLOE

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1 This letter without date is indorsed "The Hon John Tayloe Esq 22 Feb. 1775"—

2 John Tayloe and Philip Ludwell Lee were closely associated as members of the Virginia Council from 1760 until the death of the latter in 1775. They were also members of the Ohio Company. One of John Tayloe's daughters (Rebecca) married Francis Lightfoot Lee.